

Application No.: 09/662980

Case No.: 56001US002

Remarks

According to the Examiner, "claims 1-5 and 18-26 are rejected under 35 USC (first paragraph) as being broader than the enabling disclosure as a result of applicants failure to recite that the additive is polystyrene."¹ The Examiner further indicated that claims 16 and 17 were "objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 16 and 17, but believe that their remarks herein render the rejection of the remaining claims moot. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

In order to clarify the invention, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 19 to indicate that the additive forms domains in the light emitting polymer when these components are blended together. This amendment is supported by the originally-filed application at page 16, lines 20-21 which state: "In some cases, it may be desirable for the additive material to form domains in the LEP material when blended."

The formation of domains of one material in a second material when the two materials are blended is a phenomenon with which those skilled in the art are familiar. The formation of domains may be readily confirmed using known analytical techniques such as fluorescence microscopy. The light emitting polymer will fluoresce very strongly while the additive is typically non-fluorescent either non-fluorescent, or fluoresces differently than the light emitting polymer. The boundaries of the domains can be clearly observed by the difference in fluorescence of the materials comprising the blend.

Applicants have also corrected the spelling of polystyrene in claim 17 as suggested by the Examiner.

¹ Applicants assume that the Examiner intended to apply the first paragraph of 35 USC § 112 in making this rejection and ask the Examiner to indicate otherwise if this is not so.

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Believing that all claims are in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable reconsideration of the same. To the extent that the Examiner has any continuing questions or concerns regarding the claims, he is encouraged to directly contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to discuss the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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